



## **PUBLIC NARRATIVE 2024**

Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP)  
The Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA)

February 2024

## Key messages

### The JCCP and the CPSA say:

- There should be statutory regulation to ensure that only cosmetic practitioners who meet the required standards for safe and effective practice can practise legally.
- There should be national, mandatory education and training standards for all cosmetic practitioners.
- High-risk procedures, such as injectable toxins, fillers, 'invasive' lasers, vitamin infusions, threads and 'deep' peels should only be administered by **suitably** trained and **qualified** healthcare professionals.

### Introduction

The Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) is a UK national body that registers practitioners and approves education and training providers, in the fields of non-surgical cosmetic treatments and hair restoration surgery.

The JCCP exists to provide a source of information and guidance for patients and members of the public with the key remit of ensuring patient safety and enhancing public protection.

The JCCP is accredited by the Professional Standards Authority which is accountable to Parliament, and which oversees the regulation of health and care professionals working in occupations that involve statutory regulation (for example, doctors, registered nurses, dentists, pharmacists and allied health professionals). The Professional Standards Authority also accredits registers of health and care practitioners in those areas that are not yet regulated by law. The JCCP operates an accredited register for practitioners in the fields of non-surgical cosmetic treatments and hair restoration surgery.



The JCCP register is open to designated practitioners working in the fields of cosmetic treatments provided they can demonstrate evidence of competence and proficiency in accordance with their prescribed standards. The register is available to members of the public who are strongly advised to check the registration of their cosmetic provider before commencing treatment.

The JCCP is also a charity registered with the Charity Commission and governed by a Board of Trustees. To become a not-for-profit charity JCCP has had to demonstrate that it is operating for 'public benefit' which in this case means 'patient safety' and 'public protection'. The JCCP operates across the UK in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### **The JCCP and the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA)**

The JCCP and the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA) are sister organisations. The CPSA is an expert group of clinical specialists, with patient/public representation, that prioritises experience, evidence and patient safety.

The CPSA sets the standards which anyone who wishes to perform non-surgical cosmetic treatments must meet, whatever professional background they are from. Practitioners who meet these standards can join a register held by the JCCP. Members of the public can select a practitioner from the register, knowing they meet the standards established by the CPSA.

The JCCP and the CPSA were both established in response to a review into cosmetic practice led by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh in 2013. This review followed in the wake of the PIP (Poly Implant Prosthèse) breast implant scandal.

The non-surgical cosmetic sector has expanded exponentially in recent years and the CPSA estimates that such procedures now account for 9 out of 10 of all cosmetic interventions, with the remainder being cosmetic surgical procedures.

The JCCP and CPSA have jointly developed a Code of Practice (2023) for practitioners who provide non-surgical cosmetic interventions. Among other things it requires practitioners to promote safety and patient wellbeing, always seek patient consent, provide adequate information, consider patients' psychological and emotional needs and have indemnity and liability insurance.

### **Treatments and challenges**

The JCCP has been established to set standards for this field and to consider both the benefits and the risks associated with non-surgical, anti-ageing treatments and hair restoration surgery. The treatments for which we currently set standards include:

- Botulinum toxin injections
- Dermal fillers
- Skin rejuvenation including micro needling and skin peels
- Laser and light therapy
- Hair restoration surgery

In recent years the JCCP has witnessed a growing number of harmful complications arising from such treatments many of which have been the result of sub-standard treatment administered by inappropriately qualified and poorly trained practitioners. We are also seeing gross misrepresentation of the benefits of treatment, not least on social media and other online platforms.

The recent explosion in cosmetic procedures has been fuelled by social media, the proliferation of high street beauty outlets and a dramatic increase in the range of cosmetic procedures including those involving botulinum toxins such as Botox ©, dermal fillers, chemical peels, vitamin injections or infusions and laser treatments. All these procedures carry the risk of

serious harm if they are not administered by suitably trained professionals operating from clean and hygienic premises.

At the heart of the problem is a serious lack of independent information and advice for the public and the simple fact that this is an area that requires statutory regulation.

### **The Health and Care Act (2022)**

As a result of the publication of the Health and Care Act, 2022, (Section 180) the government is now committed to introducing a new system of licensing across England, for non-surgical cosmetic procedures. This commitment represents the biggest shake up in a generation for the cosmetic treatments industry. The JCCP warmly welcomed this development.

The new licensing regime is designed to safeguard people who access invasive cosmetic treatments and follows earlier legislation that made it illegal to administer dermal fillers and injectable toxin treatments to under 18s. The new scheme will involve a practitioner licence and a premises licence and will make it an offence for anybody to carry out non-surgical cosmetic treatments without the relevant licenses. It will also extend the range of treatments that may NOT be administered to those under the age of 18.

The scheme seeks to ensure that people who administer cosmetic procedures are properly experienced, trained and qualified, have the necessary insurance cover and operate from premises that are clean, hygienic and suitably licensed. The scheme will be administered by local authorities across England.

In September 2023 the government launched a major public consultation to seek the views of practitioners, patients, stakeholders and members of the public on this new licencing scheme.

Prof David Sines, Chair of the JCCP said at the time of the consultation, “This will dramatically improve consumer safety and reduce the risk of injury and harm arising from ‘botched’ and improperly performed cosmetic treatments.”

CPSA Chair, Mr. Alex Woollard said, “Work must now continue in earnest to ensure that the standards consulted upon and adopted protect the public to the level that they expect and deserve. The CPSA will support this process, in any way that we can, with the wealth of experience amongst our founding specialty associations.”

The JCCP has worked closely with the Government and regulatory authorities in England to achieve legally enforceable governance arrangements for the cosmetic sector. The Government consultation is the result of our long-term work and collaboration to co-design a new, sustainable system of regulation to protect members of the public.



## JCCP Ten-point plan

The new licensing regime complements and fits well with the JCCP's ten-point plan of action which says we believe there should be:

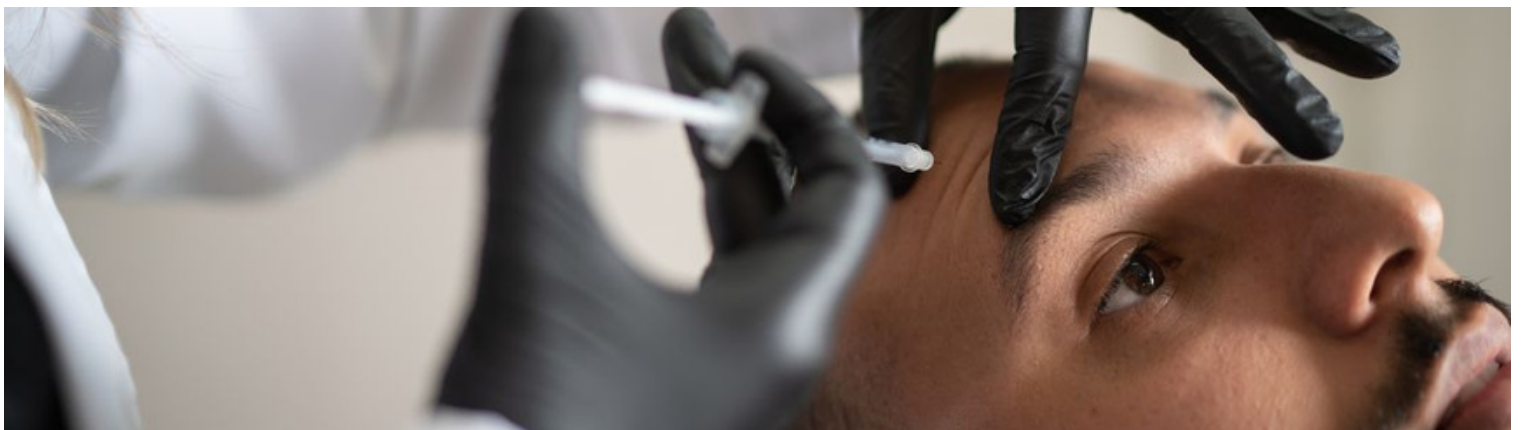
- Statutory regulation to ensure that only practitioners who meet the required standards for safe and effective practice can practise legally.
- National, mandatory education and training standards for all practitioners in these fields.
- Clear, transparent information from service providers on risks, benefits, costs, qualifications, and insurance.
- A clear, legal definition of what constitutes a 'medical' procedure, a 'medically related' service and a 'cosmetic' treatment.
- Robust standards and regulation for the safe, ethical and professional prescribing and supply of medications and preparations.
- Tighter controls on advertising and social media posts to prevent the promotion of unsafe, unethical and exaggerated messaging about products, education, training and service provision.
- A nationally agreed process for the reporting and analysis of complications and adverse incidents.
- A legal requirement that all cosmetic non-surgical and hair restoration surgical practitioners should hold an appropriate level of medical indemnity insurance to provide a proper redress scheme for service users.
- Nationally agreed standards for the licensing and regulation of premises and treatment procedures.
- A campaign to raise public awareness of the benefits and risks associated with non-surgical treatments and hair restoration surgery.

## Clinicians “holding the needle”

The JCCP and the CPSA are calling for the statutory regulation of cosmetic treatments involving injectables, fillers, invasive lasers, ‘deep’ peels, threads, vitamin infusions and other invasive treatments and says these should only be administered by suitably trained and experienced regulated healthcare professionals.

Our call for statutory regulation followed the publication, in July 2021, of a report on aesthetic cosmetic procedures from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing. The APPG recommended a national licensing regime to be introduced across England along with certain minimum training and qualification standards for practitioners conducting aesthetic treatments, but it fell short of recommending statutory regulation. The JCCP and the CPSA welcomed the APPG report and urged the government to act on the recommendations as quickly as possible, but the JCCP and the CPSA said it was clear the government needed to go further.

Prof. David Sines CBE, the Chair of the JCCP said, “After a lengthy period of discussion with practitioners, consumers, patients, stakeholders and politicians we have concluded that in the interests of patient safety and public protection, high-risk and potentially harmful procedures, such as the insertion of dermal fillers or the injection of toxins should only be administered by appropriately trained healthcare professionals.”





## Protecting the Public - Key Mechanisms

The JCCP receives an average of more than thirty complaints and 'issues of concern' each week regarding unsafe practice associated with treatments, medicines and the supply of aesthetic products and the training standards and qualifications that many practitioners present with.

The JCCP aims to protect the public by:

- Ensuring the present government's commitment to a new licensing scheme is continued into the next Parliament.
- Only approving education and training providers that deliver programmes that meet the standards.
- Maintaining a register of individuals who successfully complete those programmes and accreditation procedures.
- Seeking to ensure that only safe, legally and ethically sourced products, devices and medicines are used in the administration of aesthetic treatments.
- Taking action if the standards are not met.
- Establishing clear and simple procedures to enable the public to raise issues of concern about the professional practice of registrants.
- Providing simple and easily accessible information to the public about non-surgical aesthetic treatments.



## Key people

The JCCP has established a Board of Trustees under the Chairmanship of Professor David Sines, CBE. Professor Sines chaired the Health Education England stakeholder consultation following the 2013 Keogh Review into patient safety. He has been Executive Chair and Registrar of the JCCP Board of Trustees since January 2016. Professor Mary Lovegrove OBE is Chair of the JCCP Education and Training Committee and Andrew Rankin is Chair of the Practitioner Register Committee. Dr Martyn King is the Council's Vice Chair and Dr Paul Charlson, along with Andrew Rankin, co-chairs the JCCP's Clinical Advisory Group. Sally Taber and Dawn Knight lead the Council's Complaints Team. John Underwood chairs the Council's Marketing and Communications Committee. Our patient and lay advocates are Dawn Knight and Kimberley Cairns. All are Trustees of the JCCP.

The CPSA chairperson is Mr. Alex Woollard. He is supported by the following Trustees: Dr Tamara Griffiths, representing the British Association of Dermatologists; Mr. Simon Withey, representing the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons; Mr. Ahmed Ali-Khan, representing the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS); Mr. Alexander Armstrong, a Plastic Surgery Consultant as an Ex-Officio Trustee; Leslie Ash as 'Patient and Public' representation and Mr. Mark Mikhail, a Plastic Surgery Registrar and CPSA Secretary.



## Key Priorities for 2024:

- The JCCP will continue to be actively and fully engaged in the DHSC public consultation licensing process.
- The JCCP will continue to operate its PSA approved Practitioner Register under the same terms and conditions as currently used (free membership and agreed auditing arrangements with the Practitioner Register Committee and the PSA).
- The JCCP will further develop its Education & Training Register for providers and qualifications in association with DHSC proposals for the design and implementation of a new licensing scheme in England.
- The JCCP's Clinical Advisory Group will continue to work with the CPSA and key partners to develop new and revised standards to assist in the design of a new and responsive model for licensing, and to identify emerging procedures that may warrant inclusion in the Government's new licensing system.
- The JCCP will continue to engage with research partners to contribute to the evidence base to inform safe and effective aesthetics practice and governance.
- The JCCP will continue to build on those areas where it is seen as having a major strategic role in the sector – influencing members of the public, government, regulators and other stakeholders, complaints handling, standard setting, licensing and education and training.
- The Council will expand and develop the JCCP&me consumer/public facing website to further raise consumer awareness of risk associated with the higher level/invasive procedures.
- The Council will continue to develop and promote its consumer complaints platform in the interests of public protection and patient safety.
- The JCCP will call for a clearer definition regarding medical, medically related and cosmetic procedural interventions.
- Priority will be given to grow and develop the JCCP Corporate Membership Scheme for commercial partners in the aesthetics sector.

- The Council will continue to campaign for the full implementation of the JCCP 10 Point Plan as part of the Governments proposed licensing scheme in England.
- The JCCP will pursue its work with regulators to ensure that the highest standards are adopted within the proposed licensing scheme in England.

